



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DURAND DEER HUNT ENDS FOR WINTER, HERD REDUCED BY 154

Seasonal efforts to reduce the deer population at Durand Eastman Park ended successfully this week after Monroe County's Long Term Deer Management Advisory Committee announced that 77 deer were culled from the park this winter. Another 77 deer were taken elsewhere in Irondequoit during the town's bow-hunting program. As in the past, venison from deer taken in the park was donated to Foodlink to feed the hungry.

The deer management program serves to slow the growth of deer herds in Irondequoit whose total deer population has been estimated at between 275 and 550 animals. Members of the Advisory Committee met recently to review accomplishments of the 2000 program in meeting its goals of reducing the deer population in Durand Eastman Park located in the Town of Irondequoit. Bob Nolan, a spokesman for the County and a representative of the committee, today announced that the winter 2000 deer reduction program has ended for the year and was a success.

"Seventy seven deer were taken in nine bait and shoot events at Durand Eastman Park over a five week period," said Nolan. "The Winter 2000 effort to reduce the deer population in the park has ended successfully. However, the elimination of 154 deer from a herd estimated at up to 550 on a range suited for a population density of just 50 serves to emphasize the need for continuing efforts to control the herd's growth," said Nolan. "Given the program's success this winter, the Committee did not see a need to prolong the effort this season."

The Management Plan began seven years ago as a way to reduce the high rate of deer-car accidents in Irondequoit, stem the defoliation of certain species of plant life within Durand Park and reduce complaints from area homeowners regarding damage to their property. Since the program's inception in 1993, and in conjunction with Irondequoit's bow-hunting program, deer-car accidents in Irondequoit have been significantly reduced, park foliage has shown encouraging signs of recovery and complaints from area residents regarding property damage have declined. While these results are positive, the efforts to manage an ever-propagating deer herd must be sustained. The deer population in Irondequoit, estimated at between 275 and 550, is dynamic and with each fawning season, their numbers increase again.

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New York State's 1999 deer population was estimated at between 800,000 and 900,000 deer. Since 1993, the County has taken a total of 845 deer from Durand Eastman Park. More than 23,500 lbs. of venison has been donated to Foodlink to benefit the hungry.

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